



EPA Update

Tinkham's Garage Superfund Site

The Tinkham's Garage Superfund Site in Londonderry NH is now home to one of the region's newest Home Depot stores which opened on the northern corner of the site in December 2002. Additionally, there are plans for construction of 125-unit active senior housing development called the Nevins. Use of the site property is safe since there is no exposure pathway to the contaminated aquifer below. All new construction at the site will be serviced by public water and sewer.

On March 31, 2003, EPA issued an Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) which formally modifies the ongoing approach to groundwater restoration. Groundwater was previously extracted from several wells throughout the site property and pumped to the Derry Public Owned Treatment Works (POTW) for treatment.

Although groundwater remains contaminated with elevated levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), levels have decreased significantly since the successful cleanup of contaminated soils, which had been an ongoing source of the groundwater contamination. The relatively lower levels of contamination result in the extraction of larger volumes of clean water which reduces the removal efficiency of the intended treatment. This results in a "steady state" condition where active pumping fails to further reduce contaminant levels. However, further reduction of contaminant levels in groundwater
(over)



Construction of the Nevins Clubhouse



Home Depot

For More Information

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Additional Information is available for review at:

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have been observed in monitoring wells at the site through a process commonly referred to as natural attenuation, where microbes present in the aquifer continuously degrade toxic compounds.

Groundwater will be monitored twice a year until the aquifer is again safe to drink. Best estimates suggest that monitored natural attenuation will require about 15 years to restore the aquifer to drinking water standards.

Tinkham's Garage was one of the first sites added to the national Superfund list in September 1983. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) have been working with the parties responsible for the contamination for nearly 20 years to clean up contaminated soils and remove groundwater contamination from the aquifer beneath the site.

Below are brief highlights of what has been accomplished at the site:

- ☐ Public water extended to impacted homes in 1983.
- ☐ Settlement reached with about 600 responsible parties to perform and pay for the clean up in 1986.
- ☐ Clean up of contaminated soil successfully completed in 1996.
- ☐ Groundwater extraction system installed in 1995. Groundwater is pumped to the Derry POTW for treatment.
- ☐ DES establishes a Groundwater Management Zone (GMZ) above the groundwater plume in 2002. The Groundwater Management Zone notifies area property owners that groundwater beneath the site should not be consumed. The GMZ permit fortifies the monitoring requirements already being performed under the Superfund program.



Nevins Clubhouse Design

Removal of the source soils, former groundwater extraction efforts and ongoing natural attenuation have greatly reduced contaminant levels in groundwater and have allowed for reuse of the site property.

EPA and DES will continue to monitor the site closely to ensure that adjacent residential supply wells continue to be safe and to verify that conditions improve as expected.

Copies of the ESD and other related documents, such as ongoing monitoring reports, are available for review at the Leach Public Library in Londonderry and the EPA records center in Boston.



The site in June 2002